

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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R 031834 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8916

INFO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 9348

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR MA

SUBJ : FRANCO- MALAGASY RELATIONS

REF: PARIS 7597

1. ACCORDING TO QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN AFFAIRS DUBOIS, NEXT ROUND OF FRANCE- MALAGASY NEGOTIATIONS LIKELY TO BEGIN IN TANANARIVE IN TEN TO FIFTEEN DAYS. TIMING WILL DEPEND IN PART ON WHO IS NAMED TO COOPERATION PORTFOLIO IN NEW GOVERNMENT. DUBOIS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE OPTIMISM AT OUTCOME, SAID THAT CLIMATE FOR PRODUCTIVE TALKS HAD BEEN CREATED BY POMPIDOU/ RATSIRAKA MEETING REPORTED REFTEL, AND NOTED AS EVIDENCE POSITIVE TONE OF RATSIRAKA'S REMARKS ON RETURN TO TANANARIVE.

2. WHILE SPECIFICS OF MILITARY AGREEMENT HAD NOT BEEN TOUCHED ON AS YET, DUBOIS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER ITEMS ON AGENDA NEAR RESOLUTION. IN DISCUSSING MILITARY PROBLEM, DUBOIS REITERATED FRENCH CONCERN ABOUT STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF DIEGO SUAREZ AS KEY POINT ON INTERNATIONAL SEA LANES BRINGING OIL ACROSS INDIAN OCEAN. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WESTERN POWERS WOULD SHOW SOLIDARITY AND RECOGNIZE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF DIEGO SUAREZ.

3. IN GENERAL DUBOIS TOOK POSITIVE TONE ABOUT OVERALL SITUATION
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IN MADAGASCAR, POINTING OUT THAT ETHNIC MERINA/ COTIER
DISTURBANCES HAD BEEN LIMITED BOTH IN TIME AND GEOGRAPHICAL
SCOPE. GOM, HE SAID, SEEMED TO HAVE SITUATION WELL IN
HAND, PARTICULARLY GIVEN FACT THAT COTIERS DID NOT WANT TO PROVOKE
CONFRONTATION WITH MERINA MINORITY.
IRWIN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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